

IMPACT REPORT

Regional Arts & Culture Council



2022

racc.org



Eight Seconds: Glitter in the Dirt
Pictured: Obba Babatundé | Photo: Ivan McCellan, MLB grant recipient



“

Art is a way to understand our individual and collective paths. Whether it be through making, experiencing, or observing—through art we get a chance to explore ourselves, to better understand and relate to ourselves as children to adults; to connect with those around us and to understand the impacts and influences in our lives.

Mario Mesquita, RACC
Advocacy & Engagement Manager

*Appreciate Companionship (detail), Acrylic and paper on linen,
Soo Hong | Vanport Building Art Collection*

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Thank You!

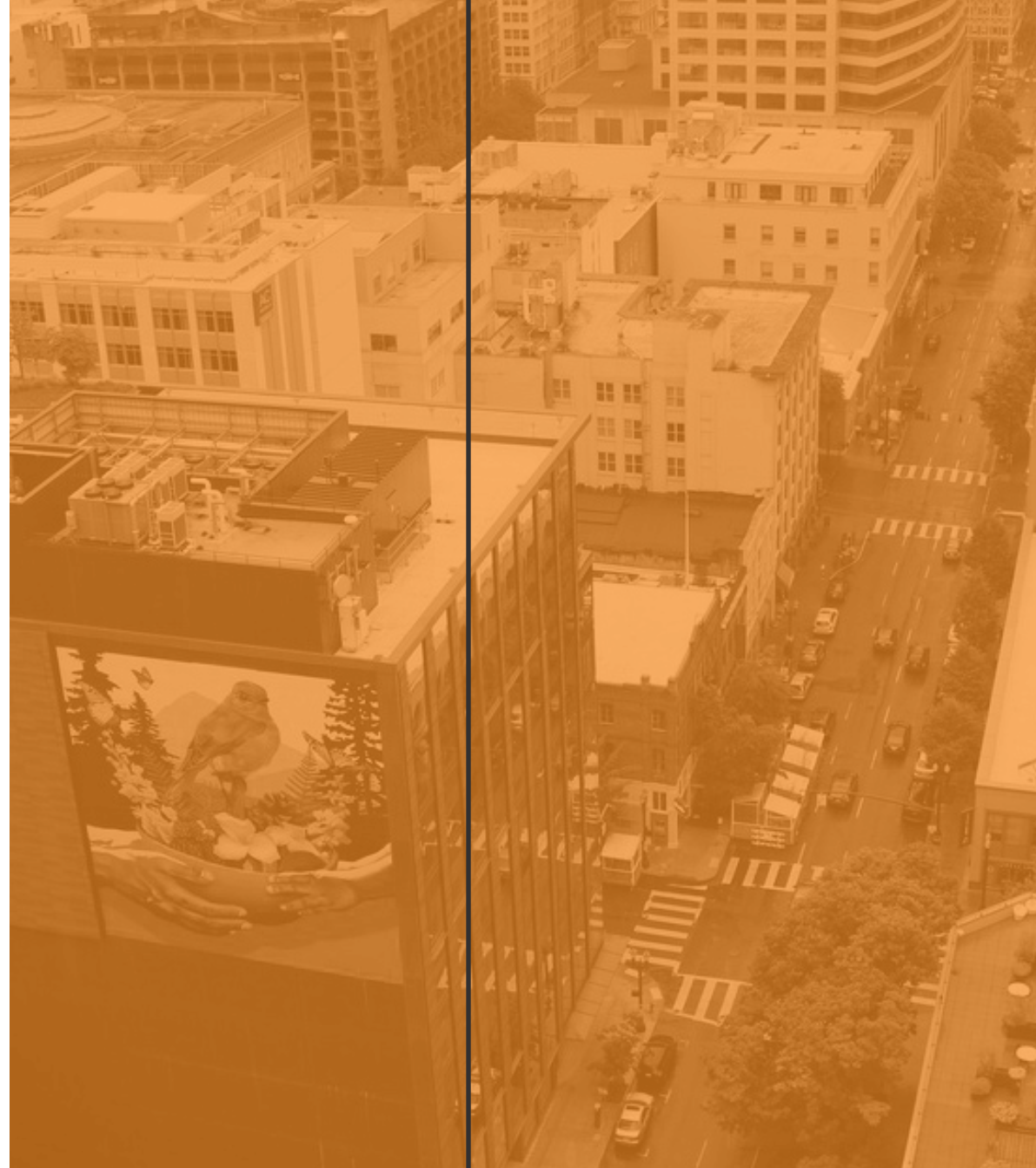
Reflecting on Fiscal Year 2022: Growing Out, Growing In

By Phil Barber, Philanthropic Engagement Specialist

A look at RACC’s activities in the past year offers an invigorating picture of organizational culture change undertaken alongside monumental social transformation occurring in our community and around the world. Beginning in 2020, RACC embarked on a transformative journey of community engagement and connection. Two years into this journey, organizational development continues to focus on transforming our culture, making solid internal infrastructure investments, and creating meaningful opportunity for professional development.

As we expand community advocacy by increasing capacity, policy advocacy, and uplifting voices of those with marginalized identities, RACC has been able to devote more organizational resources to framing and championing issues. Growing community support for the organization due to increased access and engagement has resulted in greater volumes of available resources, expanded access to arts and culture programming, and deeper connections.

The strengthening of RACC’s own foundation has been successful at identifying and securing new funding, expanding overall investment in the regional creative sector, and practicing innovative and novel resource development. As we move into 2023, we want to thank you for traveling this path with us, and for all of your incredible support yesterday, today, and tomorrow—where we go, we go together.



*Inheritance, P mural by Alex Chiu and Jeremy Nichols, Portland Street Art Alliance
GOS partner organization | 250 SW Taylor St., Portland, OR*

Your steadfast support helps us keep artists and creatives thriving all around our community today, and dreaming big for a resplendent tomorrow.

Make a donation today.



racc.org/donate-now



White Lotus Foundation, Dragon and Lion Dance Performance, MLB grant recipient | Photo: Elvis Nguyen and Justin Pham

ABOUT US

An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Regional Arts & Culture Council supports the creative economy in greater Portland by providing equitable funding and services to artists, creatives, and art organizations; managing and growing a diverse, nationally acclaimed public art program; and developing enduring public and private partnerships. Through advocacy and engagement, we are building community support for artists, creatives, arts-serving organizations, and arts educators, ensuring a thriving region for arts and culture.

Mission

To enrich our communities through arts and culture.

Vision

A thriving region, powered by creativity, with arts and culture in every neighborhood.



*Transformation: The Evolution of Etta, Performance at Alberta Street Pub
Arietta Ward, MLB grant recipient | Photo: Norman Eder*



Lotería en Portlandia, Going Public! Mural, Rebecca Rodela | Gateway Transit Center, 9900 NE Multnomah St., Portland, OR

Increasing Accessibility Through OPPORTUNITY

By Kristin Calhoun, Director of Public Art

Through thoughtful listening to artists, community and partners, RACC's public art program works to be flexible and responsive, adapting our approach for particular opportunities to fit their individual needs. Locally, our primary partners in FY 21-22 included the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Multnomah County Library District, the Port of Portland, the City of Hillsboro, and Open Signal. On the national level, we received a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town grant to create community art projects for the East Portland Cultural Corridor along SE Division, working with three community-based organizations, an artist-in-residence, the Portland Bureau of Transportation, and TriMet. We are always tuning our processes to ease them for applicants and reviewers alike. We added 189 artworks to the public art collections of the City of Portland and Multnomah County by 143 artists, a majority of whom did not already have art in the public collection.

Artist and community opportunities for learning and growth are an ongoing thread throughout our processes. With support from Hillsboro, Portland and TriMet, we launched our murals skill building intensive cohort, *Going Public!*. This mentor-centric program engages, coaches, and promotes artists from under-represented communities who wish to learn how to become muralists by focusing on the mechanics of mural making. Workshop participants also learn business aspects and other essential skills from artists who are active in this discipline and who are also from underrepresented communities.

Two major projects we began in FY21-22 are for the Port of Portland with the airport terminal core expansion and for the Multnomah County Library Bond program. There's lots to come on the horizon!



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It's not just that you get to wake up and it's there, but with this program you actually get to see the process. It is definitely important to the economic prosperity of any region to have public art—art that is accessible. That just brings rewards for everyone in the community.

Carol Tatch, RACC
Chief of External Operations

Going Public!, Mural Skill Building Intensive, Pictured: Abdie Flores | Photo: Leo Townsell

Going Public! A Mural Skill Building Intensive

In June of 2022, a cohort of emerging muralists of color were selected and paired with established muralists of color, all from the Portland metro area. The program's aim is to support these emerging muralists throughout the creative process by providing mentorship, mural-making workshops, and the opportunity to create and paint a design, all the while being compensated for their energy, time, and labor.

One of the program's key goals is to foster relationships among the participants through the workshops and regular meetings with their mentors, thus creating a network of support and access. This is instrumental in preparing the cohort of emerging muralists to paint their own mural designs on the many donated spaces from the Going Public! partners. Look for more information on this program in our FY2023 Impact Report.



Going Public!, Mural Skill Building Intensive
Pictured from left to right: Bernadette Little, Saphya Lones, Nabíl Delano | Photos: Leo Townsell

Benni wa bennek, Zeinab Saab, Fresh Paint Mural in spring of 2022
at Open Signal | Photos: Sarah Farahat



Fresh Paint: A Partnership with Open Signal

Since 2017, RACC has partnered with Open Signal on Fresh Paint. The program supports emerging artists of color with their first publicly funded mural commission while giving the artists the opportunity to expand their creative skill sets and build paths to other public commissions. Each temporary mural appears on Open Signal's exterior wall that faces NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd at Graham Street.

Artist Zeinab Saab was the twelfth muralist to take part in the program in the spring of 2022. With their mural *Benni wa bennek*, the artist's design pays homage to childhood heroes: the aunties on the porch drinking Turkish coffee, eating sunflower seeds, and talking shit/spilling tea about folks in the neighborhood. Their intention was to translate the idea of community and closeness and how quickly that connection is made over a cup of Turkish coffee or tea on your neighbor's baranda, or porch. "Benni wa bennek" simply translates to "between me and you."

“With every mural, we're able to showcase an artist's story, sharing bits of their communities and histories on a busy thoroughway — an act of placemaking that brings our wall to life.”

Daniela Serna,
Open Signal's Fresh Paint facilitator



Cloak of the Revolution (detail), 'A'ahu Ho'okahuli Aupuni
MLB grant recipient | Photo: Moriel O'Connor



What a wonderful opportunity to be gifted the chance to get curious, creative, and experiment with new ways of connecting and taking risks.

**Bari Langbaum,
Make|Learn|Build grant recipient**



Kickstand Comedy event at Laurelhurst Park, MLB grant recipient | Photo: Sam Gherke

Making an Impactful Investment in COMMUNITY *By Helen Daltoso, Director of Grants*

Weathering the ebbs and flows of the pandemic was no small feat for creative communities. The myriad approaches artists, arts leaders, and owners of arts-based businesses had to take were diverse and innovative. RACC's approach to grantmaking is to let the community be our guide, and our ever-evolving programming, as illustrated by the Make|Learn|Build grant, set us up well to respond to changing community needs.

RACC's steady support through our public funding partnerships, as well as new funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), served our region's arts organizations by maintaining and increasing investments in our General Operating Support Program (GOS), which now serves 68 partners in total. RACC was able to increase awards to our GOS partners in Washington and Clackamas counties as well as add new partners: All Ages Music Portland/Friends of Noise and Street Books.

GOS partner organizations were invited to apply in 1-2 out of 3 categories for Investment Awards: *Orienting toward Community Impact and Service; Operationalizing Equitable Practices through Policy and Procedure; and Art and the Audience.* Through this process, 50 GOS partners were awarded \$619,440. What we learned underscores the deep, impactful community engagement work of these organizations.

Through funding from the Arts Education and Access Fund of the City of Portland, as well as additional grant support from the Oregon Cultural Trust and the NEA, RACC was able to invite six new organizations to join our Capacity Building Program cohort including our first participant from Washington County – Art Max Academy.

Supporting Community Values: MakeLearn|Build Grant Program

The MakeLearn|Build grant program supported artists, creatives, organizations, and businesses in making work, gaining skills, or building up a business. The grant was a direct response to community needs and addressed the various ways the arts community in the tri-county region needed support, achieving significant impact during an uncertain time.

We worked to expand our technical support by offering Instagram Live events and information sessions with ASL interpretation, along with one-on-one grantwriting guidance through panel feedback and draft reviews. Using a simple, accessible application, we welcomed many first-time applicants, resulting in explosive growth in the applicant pool and highlighting the huge need for support in the artist and creative community.

Our contracted community reviewers assessed the importance of each application considering RACC's core values of Accessibility, Advocacy, Equity, Diversity, Community, and Innovation.

By making smaller awards to a wider number of grantees, we were able to reach more people. This entire process allowed us to put the emphasis on supporting community values.



*White Lotus Foundation, Dragon and Lion
Dance Performance, MLB grant recipient | Photo: Elvis Nguyen*



Never Look Away (detail), Mural, Casandra Swan and Kyra Watkins | DeSoto Building, Northwest Davis Street, Portland, OR

Cultivating Equity by Igniting PROGRESS

By Mario Mesquita, Advocacy & Engagement Manager

Each season, RACC liaises between city, tri-county, state, and national government offices to provide information and seek endorsement on legislation that impacts arts and culture. Through community support and relationship building, we regularly research the impact of arts and culture in our region.

We advocate for support in communities continuing to experience the impact of COVID-19. In order to understand how to best engage with and serve our region two years after shutdown, we conducted a planning survey. 528 members of the arts and culture community participated in the survey between February 15th—March 1st, 2022. Overall, the survey results showed a range of ways in which RACC can provide support that serves the region. By using the data to guide program planning, we will continue to further our mission to enrich the community through arts and culture.

As of May 2022, RACC is collaborating with Americans for the Arts in the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study to survey the impact of the arts on adjacent economic sectors. Additionally, we received two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the first was **Our Town**—a creative placemaking grant that will fund a project in the East Portland Cultural Corridor that explores points of connection, intersection, and pride between diverse residents. The second grant will increase investment in arts and culture in Washington and Clackamas counties, stimulating localized development and support. This funding, held in collaborative partnerships with local governments, will help to build the base for future outreach that positively impacts the community.



Lincoln Reimagined, Matthew Kelsey, Grade 11 | Portland Public Schools

Forging Ahead Through INNOVATION

By Chanda Evans, Arts Education Program Manager

RACC continues to elevate, advocate, and uplift our arts education program and arts educators throughout Multnomah County. We calibrated our strategic plan to reframe the importance of the Arts Education and Access Fund (AEAF) in our community. In doing so, we initiated an on-going social media campaign emphasizing the importance of arts education and AEAF awareness. Through our participation in the AEAF's bi-annual report to the City of Portland, we provided data to highlight inequities and the positive impact of arts education on youth. We continue to expand artlook® oregon, an interactive arts-engagement mapping platform, and pivoted to include all of Multnomah County in our outreach through our partnership with Trauma Informed Oregon.

In collaboration with a third party evaluator, RACC conducted an arts education survey in the spring of 2022. The data collected helped us to understand the needs of arts educators in our community post-COVID-19 shutdown. To that end, we've been able to create an action plan that incorporates these findings into our programming. To further strengthen our relationship with arts educators and build community in a time where most activities were still remote, we launched a quarterly, targeted arts education newsletter, #newsforyourheART.

“ *I am in awe of the creativity and light that was produced during such a dark time. I saw students take risks every day, and I saw theatre teachers learn new skills to make theatre accessible to their students and their community. It was a true test of the human spirit, and that continues to inspire me every day.*

Kellie McCarty, Theatre Arts educator at Centennial High School writes in reference to the COVID-19 shutdown



Undercard (short film), Anchitta Noowong, MLB grant recipient

Support for Community Arts & Culture

Contributions of time, talent, money and other resources enable us to be a strong and productive organization, empowering our supported artists and creatives to dream big and share their magic with the world. You and your generosity keep our community thriving. We wish to thank the organizations and businesses on the facing page for their partnership and support in FY 21-22.

Diversity on the Waterfront (detail), Collage, Hampton Rodriguez



AHS Foundation
 Amazon
 Arts Education and Access Fund
 Arts Oversight Committee
 Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
 Beaverton Arts Commission
 Multnomah County Behavioral Health Resource Center
 Business Oregon
 Cambia Health Solutions
 City of Beaverton
 City of Lake Oswego
 City of Portland
 Clackamas County
 Consulate General of Canada to the United States, in Seattle
 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
 Division Midway Alliance
 Doris Duke Management Foundation
 Ecotope
 Erath Winery
 Framing Resource
 Fred Meyer
 Gary McGee & Co. LLP
 Geffen Mesher & Co.

Hampton Lumber
 HCY Foundation
 I Am M.O.R.E.
 Kaiser Permanente Community Fund
 Metro
 Miller Paint
 Multnomah County
 Multnomah County Cultural Coalition
 Multnomah County Library
 National Endowment for the Arts
 Nike, Inc.
 NW Natural
 Opsis Architecture
 Oregon Health & Science University
 Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
 Partners in Diversity
 Port of Portland
 Portland Art Museum
 Portland Business Alliance
 Portland General Electric
 Portland Public Schools
 PBOT
 Principal Financial Group
 SERA Architects
 Slavic Community Center of NW

Social and Emotional Learning Fund
 State of Oregon
 Steel Rives LLP
 Terwilliger Plaza
 The Honorable Melvin Oden-Orr
 The Immigrant Story
 The Oregon Community Foundation
 The Standard
 Tom Dwyer Automotive Service, Inc
 TriMet
 Tualatin Valley Creates
 Umpqua Bank
 US Bank
 Vernier Software & Technology
 Washington County
 Washington State Arts Commission
 Wells Fargo
 Wyss Foundation
 Zidell Companies
 Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

**...And THANK YOU
 to our community of
 artists, creatives, and
 advocates!**

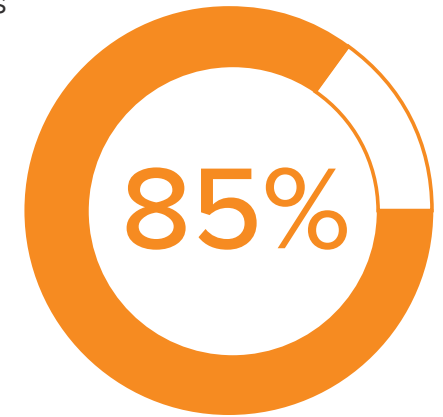
2022 AT A GLANCE

306 

Likes for RACC's top Instagram post featuring a Make|Learn|Build grantee



BIPOC representation in Make|Learn|Build community review panels



Average Twitter impressions per month



5K

Awarded through Make|Learn|Build grants

\$2,310,500

1,661



Make|Learn|Build applicants

755



Individual Make|Learn|Build grantees

25

Artists whose artwork was purchased by RACC self-identified as Native American or Native Hawaiian



Laughing Duck and Woman, bronze, Terresa White

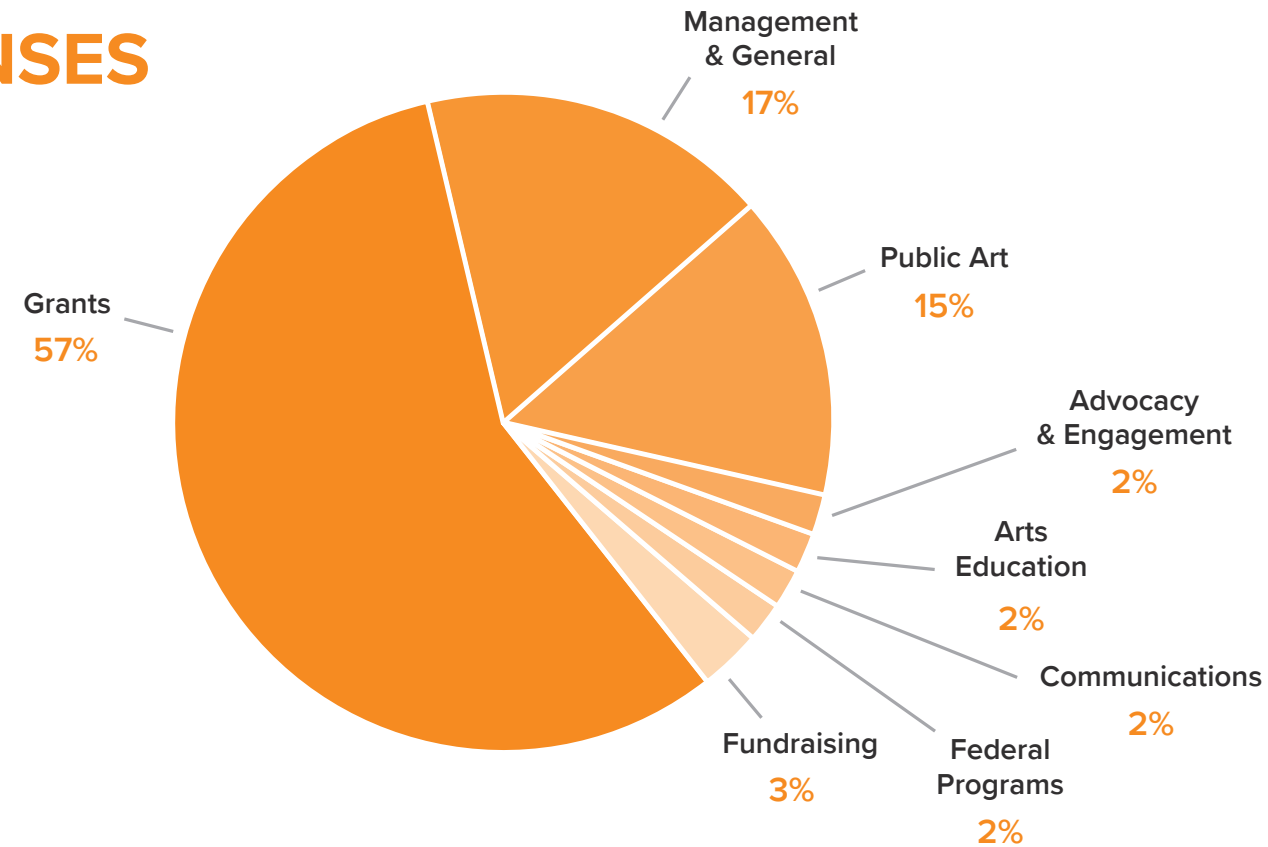
46%

Artists whose artwork was purchased by RACC in 2022 self-identified as BIPOC

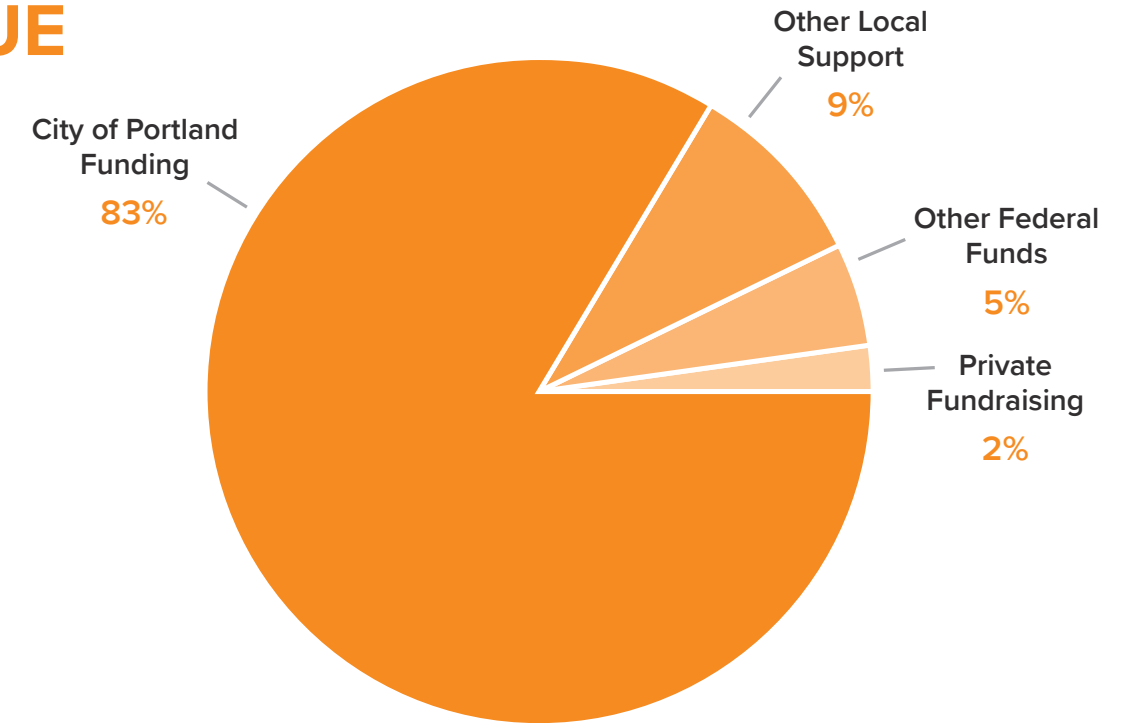


2022 BY THE NUMBERS

EXPENSES



REVENUE



A full audit is available at racc.org/auditFY21-22

Common Ground, Yin Yue, NW Dance Project dancers Santiago Villarreal and Alejandra Preciado, GOS partner organization | Photo: Blaine Truitt Covert

THANK YOU





Regional Arts & Culture Council

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@R_A_C_C



/RegionalArts



To view a PDF version of this impact report visit
annualreports.racc.org/ireportFY21-22

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